

been met, and I hope the government of Azerbaijan will recognize that it is in Azerbaijan's own interests to lift the blockades so that section 907 will no longer be necessary. In the meantime, Congress must be clear: until steps are taken by Azerbaijan to lift the blockade, section 907 stays.

#### LET US QUICKLY REJECT THE 13 MONTH FISCAL YEAR

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, from time to time, we hear some pretty wacky ideas in Washington, none wackier than a recent suggestion, apparently emanating from the other body that the Congress adopt a 13-month fiscal year so as to circumvent the budget caps we agreed to back in 1998 which, as I recall, was a standard 12-month year. What will we call the newly created 13th month? Taxember? Spenduary?

And what will our big government friends think of next in their ongoing fiscal assault on hard-working, tax-paying families. An 8-day week? A 30-hour day? With more time for everybody to work for the tax man?

I have a really unique suggestion. Let us keep our promises, stand by the commitment we made to the American people. Let us honor those spending caps that the Congress and the President agreed to only about a year ago. Let us give the American people something they are not accustomed to, a Congress and a President who keep their word. I guess that is something you see only once in a blue moon, or, as they say, only in a 13-month year.

#### REMEMBERING JIM "CATFISH" HUNTER, HALL OF FAME PITCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week America lost a legendary figure in the game of baseball. The town of Hertford and the State of North Carolina lost a friend and a hero. Hall of Fame pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter passed away, just one year after being diagnosed with ALS, the same disease that took the life of former Yankee first baseman Lou Gehrig.

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Mr. Speaker, Jim "Catfish" Hunter is a grand example of what a sports hero should be. He played baseball because he loved the game. The success he gained was secondary. During his career, no matter how impressive his accomplishments or how great the public recognition, he never forgot his family or his community. In fact, he lived the kind of life that movies are based on.

Jim Hunter was raised in rural eastern North Carolina as the fourth of

eight children. As a boy, he excelled in sports. In high school, professional scouts began taking interest in his pitching skills. Hunter's natural talent and dedication to the game led to a remarkable career which elevated a young country boy to a national sports hero. He was given the name Catfish in 1964 when former Oakland A's Charlie Finley signed the 18-year-old to play baseball.

Hunter admitted that he enjoyed hunting and fishing, and the A's owner apparently insisted on the name Catfish. Jim Catfish Hunter went on to win five world championship rings and a plaque in baseball's Hall of Fame.

As an 8-time All Star, he pitched in 6 World Series, helping to win three championships in Oakland and two more with the Yankees. His 15-year baseball career ended in 1979, but not before he won 224 games, pitched a perfect game, and in 1974 received the American League's Cy Young Award.

Jim Catfish Hunter gained the kind of superstardom that could have changed most men, but he remained the same unassuming man he was when he left Eastern North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, John Ruskin once said, "The first true test of a truly great man is his humility." Mr. Speaker, if this is the test, then Catfish Hunter will certainly be remembered as a great man.

At age 33, Jim Catfish Hunter retired from baseball and moved back to North Carolina, not far from where he was raised, to concentrate on his family. He had married his high school sweetheart Helen, and together they had three children, sons Todd and Paul, and a daughter, Kim. Hunter has been quoted as saying he would have given up all of his money and fame for the health to watch his grandson Taylor grow.

But Jim Hunter was a fighter. Instead of shying away from the disease, he worked to raise awareness of his illness in hopes of finding a cure. In fact, last May, Hunter attended the opening of the Jim Catfish Hunter ALS Foundation in Hartford, North Carolina. The event fell on May 8, the 31st anniversary of his perfect game.

Mr. Speaker, we remember him as more than just a great ball player. He was a wonderful man who loved his family and his community. In fact, I imagine he would like to be remembered as Jim Hunter, the husband, father, grandfather, and friend, rather than Catfish Hunter, the Hall of Fame baseball pitcher.

Today we celebrate his life and the legacy that he has left for future athletes. Mr. Speaker, the Nation and the game of baseball are better off because Jim Catfish Hunter passed this way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ON THE RELEASE OF FALN TERRORISTS BY THE WHITE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, last week, as some Members of the body know and many Americans know, a number of terrorists that engaged in a reign of terror across this Nation during the seventies and eighties were part of a group known as the FALN, that were responsible and proudly claimed responsibility for 130 bombings, if not more, killing innocent people and maiming innocent people.

It became news in the last several weeks because they were offered clemency by the White House. Despite the fact that they rejected the initial offer of clemency because they thought conditions placed upon them were too humiliating, ultimately they agreed and now they are free, with the exception of two, who rejected the offer.

At the time, those of us who opposed the offer of clemency objected, for a number of reasons. One, these are evil people. They sought to hurt, kill, and maim innocent people. They sought, in a way, the overthrow of the United States government because they did not get their way through a civilized, normal democratic process known as the rule of law, known as elections.

They sought the independence of Puerto Rico. They did not get their way, so they resorted to bombs. They resorted to killing. They resorted to maiming. They were terrorists.

At the time, we brought forward some of the victims: A police officer was blinded for life, another who was blind in one eye, another who lost his leg, another whose husband was killed in the tavern bombing in 1975, another family who lost their father and husband in 1975. We said, we are sending the absolutely wrong signal to terrorists, because we are emboldening people around the world who are going to contemplate terrorism on our soil.

It did not take long, Mr. Speaker. Just a few days ago there was a statement put out by one Filiberto Ojeda Rios. He put out this statement: "If they," the United States, "start bombing Vieques again, and they threaten